

\*----- ST REPORT INTERNATIONAL ONLINE MAGAZINE -----\*  
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-\* ITS GLENDALE TIME! \*-  
-\* REHBOCK IMAGE ENHANCED \*-  
-\* FCC ASKS FOR TELCOM RATE HIKE INPUT! \*-

ST REPORT INTERNATIONAL ONLINE MAGAZINE  
The Original \* Independent \* Online Magazine  
-\* FEATURING WEEKLY \*-

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STReport's BBS, The Bounty, invites BBS systems, worldwide, to participate in the Fido/TurboNet/Atari F-Net Mail Network. You may also call our BBS direct at 904-786-4176, and enjoy the excitement of exchanging information relative to the Atari and other computers worldwide through the use of

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WHAT'S NEW IN THE ATARI FORUMS (September 11)

#### BILL REHBOCK CONFERENCE TRANSCRIPT

Many thanks to everyone who attended the Bill Rehbock conference! The transcript has been posted as file FALCO.TXT in LIBRARY 15 of the Atari Arts Forum (GO ATARIARTS)

Check out files MESSEA.LZH and MESSEB.LZH in LIBRARY 4 of the Atari Arts Forum (GO ATARIARTS) for 256 color .GIFs from the 1992 Atari Messe in Duesseldorf.

MESSE1.GIF & MESSE2.GIF are shots overlooking the main hall at the show after closing.

MESSE3.GIF is one of the developer stands inside the main Atari area at the show.

MESSE4.GIF of the .LZH is the Volcano/Pyramid that was part of the multimedia demonstration (the lighting, motors, music, etc. was all Atari Computer controlled).

MESSE5.GIF is the Atari Store, featuring Atari Sportswear, handbags, etc.

MESSE6.GIF is a shot of the Falcon stand during set-up.

#### ADD PASSWORD PROTECTION TO YOUR FILES...

Download CYPHER.LZH from LIBRARY 4 of the Atari Productivity Forum (GO ATARIPRO) for Cypher V3.01 By Patrick Mallows - a utility to Encrypt / Decrypt any file or program. Prevents snooping of files unless password is entered. Written in GFA with a "Frontend (tm)" interface. A Utility not to be missed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ATARI

Please see message # 33937 in the Atari Arts Forum (GO ATARIARTS) for an

announcement from Bill Rehbock concerning a FALCON030 offer and Fall Comdex registration information.

#### FALCON030 VIDEO MODE DESCRIPTIONS

John Townsend of Atari Corp. has put together a file that describes in detail the various video modes available on the FALCON030 computer. Be sure to download VIDMOD.TXT from LIBRARY 8 of the Atari Productivity Forum (GO ATARIPRO) to read this comprehensive explanation.

#### ATARI 8-BIT FORUM UPDATE

CURRENT NOTES is looking for 8-bit articles. Now's your chance! See message #20444 in the Atari 8-Bit Forum (GO ATARI8) for details.

STReport is now available in ARC format, for those who've wanted to read it, but are unable to access LZH files. BRO STR\*.ARC in LIBRARY 7 of the Atari 8-Bit Forum (GO ATARI8).

THE ATARI PORTFOLIO FORUM ON COMPUSERVE  
HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AN  
OFFICIAL SUPPORT SITE BY ATARI CORPORATION

"GO APORTFOLIO TO ACCESS THE ATARI PORTFOLIO FORUM"

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> From the Editor's Desk                      "Saying it like it is!"  
    "\*\*\*\*\*"

Surprisingly, the enthusiasm created by the announcement of the new Falcon by Atari hasn't approached anywhere near the levels of confidence, credibility and assurance developed by the two recent online conferences hosted by Bill Rehbock held on both Compuserve and Genie.

Rehbock's ability to answer user's questions has indeed given the userbase, worldwide, a glimpse of a young professional quite capable of communicating with everyone and making sure they understood completely what he was saying. You'll notice when you read the conferences contained in this issue, that Rehbock is not the typical, ambiguous Atari online type giving answers in abstraction or no direct answer to a question at all. But instead he seems to go out of his way to \_answer\_ a user's question in minutia. Like most of us, you'll come away from reading the conference transcripts knowing a great deal more about the Falcon and \_glad\_ you read the material.

Bill Rehbock has indeed, through his presence in the online conferences, given every indication that Atari may well have turned the corner and adopted a new attitude toward all its customers and supporters. In any case, Rehbock has proven, beyond a doubt, he is the very capable professional Atari should be proud to have on board.

This weekend is the Glendale Show in California, if you have even the slightest inclination to attend... By all means, do so. It'll be a memorable Atari experience. STReport wishes all the success to the

Glendale organizers and participants.

Ralph @ STReport International Online Magazine

THE STORM IS BREWING!

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DEDICATED TO SERVING YOU!

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via E-Mail to:

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Delphi..... RMARIANO

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FIDONET..... 112/35

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""""""""""  
"There is no comparison! The Atari Falcon  
is far superior to the PC platform."

Sam Tramiel, 08/92  
""""""""""

> CIS Falcon Conference STR FOCUS! Atari's Bill Rehbock in Conference  
""""""""""

Welcome the CIS Electronic Convention Center...

The Atari FALCON030 Online Conference is now beginning...

Your moderator is Sysop, Ron Luks

(Sysop Ron Luks)

Welcome to tonight's online Conference...

With special guest, Bill Rehbock, director of software development and head of FALCON development. Tonight's CO will be in a moderated format to get "in line " to ask a question just type /QUE. Now, without any further ado here's tonight's guest, Bill Rehbock. Okay, Bill, get on the hotseat.  
ga

(Bill Rehbock)

Thank you Ron. I am happy to be here on Compuserve tonight. Things have settled down since the Duesseldorf Atari Messe. The Atari Falcon030 has been well-received by the European press and production Developer pre-production machines have been replaced with production machines and application development is speeding up. I also have good news regarding Atari Falcon030 FCC testing. The Falcon has passed FCC Class B specifications and we are waiting only for paperwork certification. Richard Miller, our VP of R&D is here too and he and I will be happy to answer questions regarding the Atari Falcon030, MultiTOS, and FSMGDOS tonight. Fire away! :-)

(Sysop Ron Luks)

Folks-- lets try to restrict questions to FALCON, MultiTOS and FSMGDOS for the first hour. The CO will last approx. 90 minutes and in case you didn't see the announcement CIS is giving all Atari-users a 50% discount off normal rates for this CO. Now, first up...

Moderator recognizes Pattie @ AIM

(Pattie @ AIM)

Bill, how is the schedule for Falcon's release going? Originally, there was word that fairly large numbers would be available in the fall. Is that still true or is the rumor that we will see only limited quantities till the new year true? ga

(Bill Rehbock)

Pattie, we are still on schedule and believe that the quantities will ramp up as the end of the year draws near. The initial quantities will continue to go to Europe until we have the FCC Certificate in our hands which should still be at the end of Oct.. I am still very optimistic about the production schedule. ga

(Sysop Ron Luks)

Bill-- give us an approx number. After you get FCC papers in hand. How many Falcons will ship to the USA? (this year) ga

(Bill Rehbock)

Ron, we are discussing quantities right now with the U.S. sales department. From the looks of it, I (in software development) am confident we will be able to satisfy the initial needs between October and Christmas.

Moderator recognizes Alan Page

(Alan Page)

I have been using MultiTOS (as part of the beta test) for several months now on a MegaSTE. I find it very usable on that machine. I was quite disappointed to read conference transcripts stating that MultiTOS was not going to be available I have been using MultiTOS on a MEgaSTe for a while. It is quite good, so I was disappointed to hear that it would not be available for the 68000 machines. It would greatly enhance the market for MultiTOS-friendly software. WHat is the reason for this decision and is it cast in concrete? ga

(Bill Rehbock)

It is definitely NOT cast in concrete. Many of the developers have found MultiTOS surprisingly useful even on 8MHz Stacys. The reasoning due to the large benefit of memory protection.

(Alan Page)

I urge you to consider making it generally available.

(Bill Rehbock)

I understand. Thanks ga

Moderator recognizes Chris Dammers

(Chris Dammers)

Okay, will MultiTOS be compatible with all existing software, to your knowledge? And will there be any major advertising in Europe? ga

(Bill Rehbock)

Chris, MultiTOS is extremely compatible with existing GEM Applications. It is even friendly with TOS and TTP apps by opening TTY windows for them to run in automatically. The I do expect the European Business Units to promote the Falcon heavily, both through PR and marketing. ga

Moderator recognizes Beth Jane Freeman

(Beth Jane Freeman)

Can you use peripherals from the ST, like the monitor, external ICD HD & floppy with the falcon 030? I like the idea of the 1.44 drive for drive A. It's much better than a minimum 360k or even a 720k. Good idea!! Sorry, I uploaded my question from the capture buffer, so it would be neatly typed. ga

(Bill Rehbock)

The Atari Falcon030 will accept any of the following monitors: SM124 (or equivalent), SC1224/1435 (or equivalent), or any VGA monitor. You can also connect TV. Hard drives are a little trickier. We removed the ACSI DMA connector in favor of SCSI II, which is much more reliable and the up-to-date standard. You can connect most old hard drives by bypassing the host. There are several 3rd party developer working on SCSI II to ACSI adapters to allow direct connection of SLM Laser Printers and unmodified HDs. We removed the ACSI DMA connector in favor of SCSI II, which is much more reliable and the up-to-date standard. You can connect most old hard drives by bypassing the host. I keep getting told by CIS that I am speaking too quickly :-). You can connect most old hard drives by bypassing the host adapter, which any dealer should easily be able to do for you. ga :-)

Moderator recognizes Sam Rapp

(Sam Rapp)

Will it take a can opener to get in the Falcon (metal shields, Tabs, lots of screws) Or is it easy access? How'd you guys get it through, no.. Let me restate that. Is the Falcon030 easy access, or do you have to take out 800 screws and bend 400 tabs and light a few sticks of dynamite to get to the processor slot, memory stuff, and Hard drive? Also, how'd you get through FCC so quick? Thanks. GA

(Bill Rehbock)

As a past dealer/VAR, I can empathize with the can opener thing. The shielding has been completely redesigned so that all that is needed is a #1 & #2 Phillips screwdriver. The shielding is easily removed to allow addition of larger HDs, memory boards, or expansion boards. The first pre-production machines went through FCC testing as a "dry run" to find exactly where the quirks would be. The production rev motherboards were engineered and sent to FCC as the first units came off the line. You can tell that we've become very intense on the FCC thing. ga

Moderator recognizes Pattie @ AIM

(Pattie @ AIM)

I understand that you might not be able to tell us every detail, but what are Atari's plans to market the Falcon, especially those plans geared to bringing in New Users? ga

(Bill Rehbock)

Step 1... Take good care of existing users. Step 2... Promote the product through PR and specific market area advertising in conjunction with dealers to make it easy for existing users to evangelize Falcon030 to their friends. We need to get the word out so that people have heard about the machine \_before\_ going into an Atari dealer or seeing one at a friend's house. ga

Moderator recognizes Chris Dammers @ STF

(Chris Dammers @ STF)

Seeing as the specs of the Falcon seem Formidable. Have you any plans to do more arcade conversions as well as Steel Talons? If so, could you give us their details, as well as Steel Talons'? ga

(Bill Rehbock)

We are working with many of the entertainment houses, the bulk of which do their 68000 (Atari, Mac, and Amiga) development in Europe. I believe that we will see many strong titles being developed quickly. (Produced both by Atari and 3rd parties.) ga

Moderator recognizes mERCURY mAX

(mERCURY mAX)

Are a/d and d/a converters; if so what are I read that the Falcon has 8 track hard disk recording. ga

(Bill Rehbock)

The Falcon030 has built-in 16-bit ADC's and DAC's that will allow sampling at rates up to 50KHz. We plan to have a very simple-to-use Stereo direct-to-disk recording and edit system shipping with the machines. To do full 8 track (4 Stereo) recording and editing, you do have to add an external box (several are in the works by 3rd parties) with the additional DACs/ADCs in it. This box would also have the crystal necessary to do sampling at 44.1 and 48 KHz sampling rates. ga

Moderator recognizes Bill Aycock

(Bill Aycock)

Will Falcon TOS and/or MultiTOS allow a NEWDESK.INF file to be larger than 8192 bytes? I could only customize my STe halfway because I exceeded the size limit! Also, will the Falcon have a fan built-in? :-) ga

(Bill Rehbock)

Yes, with the Hard Drive, DSP, and RAM, a small internal fan was necessary. The Limit on NEWDESK.INF has been lifted as of MultiTOS. ga

(#8,Bill Aycock)

(Good news on the fan, long as it's quiet! hehe)

(Sysop Ron Luks)

Bill--before we go on to the next question. Could you please describe the difference between Falcon TOS, MultiTOS and tell us what will ship with the first batch of Falcons? ga (difference between Falcon TOS and TOS 2.06 I mean)

(Bill Rehbock)

"Falcon TOS" has already shipped with the first batch of Falcons. It has support for all of the DSP, Sound DMA, and other new Falcon hardware, as well as O/S support for hierarchical (sp?) menus, pop-up menus, 3D Window



and Dialog objects, and full-color animated icons. MultiTOS adds all of the pre-emptive multitasking features on top of that, as well as extended interprocess communication and loadable file systems. The VDI in "Falcon TOS" has the necessary support for the new video modes, including overlay. ga

Moderator recognizes Alan Page

(Alan Page)

If I have a video camera, what sort of hardware do I need to do video overlay (with genlock) on the Falcon. e.g. video titling. Is it plug and play right out of the box, or do I have to wait for the usual 3rd party developers? Seems you are relying an awful lot on 3rd party and external hardware. Also, can it overlay both RGB and composite video?

(#25, Bill Rehbock)

I would say that we are trying to leave the market open for 3rd party development. The box for doing overlay and genlock is relatively simple. It needs to extract the external sync from your external video source, inject it into the external sync input on the 19-pin video connector, and output either Falcon video or external video, depending on the state of the overlay pin on the connector. It can overlay RGB or composite. ga

Moderator recognizes Sam Rapp

(Sam Rapp)

Ok, a few more questions;

1: Can video modes be switched without rebooting? (can I have a 'base' boot resolution and let the software pick it's own modes?)

2: Can you elaborate on Animated' Icons?

3: What other software will ship with Falcon (basic)?

4: How can I get system docs on the Falcon without spending major bucks to register as a developer? Thanks! GA

(Bill Rehbock)

Software can make a new set resolution call that will put the machine in the requested video mode. The AES will be unavailable in this mode, but the application will have full VDI support. This is primarily for games and paint and animation packages that will want to run their interface in the current user-chosen res, but be able to render or output in say, 384x480 overscanned truecolor with overlay. The preview could be displayed in a 16-color desktop window, but the application would do a wind\_update and go to the desired mode for final output. It would return to the user's mode afterward and release wind\_update. This works with MultiTOS very well.

Color Icons allow multiple color resolution icons to be carried in a resource file in both non-selected and selected states. When you select an icon, it will flip to the other image, giving an animated effect. Calappt, a Personal Information Manager that has the ability to import and export delimited file formats as well as Portfolio databases will ship with F030. Procalc, which many of you may be familiar with, as well as a True-Color Breakout with digitized sound and a game called Landmines. The real neat stuff is the System Audio Manager, which allows you to record





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Oregon Research	Current Notes
Dragon Software	Clear Thinking
Computer Studio	Toad Computers
FAST Technology	J M G Software
STep Ahead Software	

The final planning surge by the WAACE board is in full gear. The board will be meeting weekly to address remaining issues and put the final polish on the Fest.

#### Banquet:

Banquet is in final planning stages. The Banquet Coordinator is working to finalize the menu and price. WAACE is still looking for a Banquet speaker, if you are interested then contact Russ Brown at GENie R.Brown127 or call (703) 803-6126. Additional Banquet details will be announced soon...

#### Seminars:

The Seminar schedule is presented below. If you want to do a seminar and haven't told us yet then do so now!!

#### Program:

Please provide all input to the program as soon as possible. We will need to go to the printers soon.

#### Hotel:

Hotel rooms are going fast. We now have 175 of the 400 room nights sold. Remember, the AtariFest block of rooms are only on hold until 25 September, after that the unused rooms will be released to the general public. Don't wait, if you think you might want a room then reserve it now!!!

Call the hotel at 1-800-392-7666.

#### Volunteers:

A limited number of volunteer positions are available. If you or your group would like to volunteer to work at the Fest, then let Russ Brown know (703-803-6126) or R.Brown127 on GENie. If WAACE has a position for you then you will get a free admission ticket. Remember, you must be on the OFFICIAL WAACE Fest workers list to get a free ticket!!

See you all at the Fest!!!



PEOPLE... ARE TALKING  
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On CompuServe

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compiled by Joe Miranda

From The Atari Productivity Forum  
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One of the hot topics on CompuServe this week is PowerDos, the hot new program from Dragonware that is supposed to speed up many functions. As with any new "replacement" software, there are questions about what will run as it did before and what won't. Sysop Keith Joins posts:

"I had a problem trying to use PowerDOS with CodeHead's ram disk. I just got my update of the Utilities disk a short time ago and haven't installed the latest version of CODE\_RAM. Maybe that will work OK. The version I am using causes a cold boot if it is installed."

Jim Ness, who installed PowerDos on his system before most of us had ever heard of it, asks Keith:

"Did you try changing the order of loading CODERAM and PowerDOS? One of PowerDOS' configuration variables changes the location of the end of memory, to prevent applications from stealing all ram. Their network needs some upper end space itself."

Since CODERAM loads into the top of ram, it may have to load before PowerDOS. If CODERAM steals the GEMDOS vector, and uses the XBRA method of handing the vector back, it would mean that CODERAM would continue to use the TOS GEMDOS routines, while other drives would use the PowerDOS routines. That would be kind of weird.

Or, maybe to use CODERAM you have to disable the variable in PowerDOS that sets some upper ram aside."

Keith replies and adds an interesting bit of info:

"I tried loading CODE\_RAM first and it seems to work Ok that way. When PowerDOS loads it gives me a message about another program having run first and to change my AUTO folder, but it loads OK. I verified this by trying out the Pmonitor ACC. It worked but once running it, I couldn't get out of it. The mouse would move OK but a click wasn't recognized nor was a CR."

Boris Molodyi joins in and asks:

"Did you try to click and hold mouse button over EXIT button?  
PMonitor's response time seems to be quite slow."

Keith answers Boris:

"Yes, I did. I also tried a RETURN a number of times and that didn't work either."

Boris tells Keith:

"Hmm, strange. Return does not work, but keeping button pressed over EXIT always works for me..."

Boris tells Jim Ness:

"Yes, PowerDOS looks interesting, but... any ideas \_what\_ (except MEM\_SNAP.TTP) does it multitask. I tried it with ConNect, which is said to be MiNT and MultiTOS compatible, and all I could do was crash the system :-)"

Jim Ness responds:

"I would guess that you have to multitask only .TOS and .TTP programs, nothing that has GEM features. You have to list these in the configure file, to be loaded when PowerDOS loads. Dragonware has mentioned that you can run the MiNT/MultiTOS package as one of these tasks, which will then give you the advantages of both items."

Jim Ness posts:

"I just ran an entire group of NBM tests against PowerDOS. NBM does not test any BIOS character I/O. But, in math, memory, floppy drive and graphics, PowerDOS imposes less than a 1% burden on the machine. In hard disk tests, PowerDOS provides a 261% (!) improvement on TOS 1.0 and 1.2 machines, and a 179% improvement on TOS 1.4 and above. Maybe I'll run Quick Index, for some BIOS timings..."

Now I don't know about anybody else, but a 79 percent increase in hard drive performance is something I want to check out. Elsewhere in the forum, the new terminal program, STORM, is causing just as much interest as PowerDos. Albert Dayes of Atari Explorer Magazine asks Ron Luks:

"Does it have the look of FLASH? Can you change fonts? (I guess using Warp 9 that should already be possible). Can it display GIF pictures 87 and 89? Can it display anything other pic types (ie degas, neo, etc)? Does it have a special way to handle archives (LZH, ARC, ZIP, etc) from within the program? Can all the protocols be used in

background transfers? Does it have a speed rating when downloading or uploading a file? Does it have on-line help?"

Ron replies:

"It has different fonts, but I don't know what is hard coded into the program yet, and what is variable. The program is not yet finished, so I cant answer most of your questions yet. Sorry, (really)"

Albert Dayes says:

"I remember reading in the press release that it is not due till after December 7, 1992."

Alan Page, the author of STORM, tells us:

"Storm is completely different from Flash. It's also completely redesigned. As much as possible I made it modular and internally multitasking. The terminal emulations and file transfers are loadable modules. Right now I have CompuServe Vidtex (which is a whole lot like VT52) and TTY. Current file transfer modules are X/Ymodem and CIS BPlus with resumable downloads.

The editor is in a resizable movable window with FULL word wrap. e.g. delete and backspace will activate wordwrap. No more hitting the F10 key to reformat. You can have as many editing windows as GEM will let you (with MultiTOS, the number of windows seems to be limited only by memory).

The capture buffer is an editor window, but with the special property that text gets added to the end of it from the serial port. You can create a new capture buffer and turn the old one into a regular edit window. You can edit a file at the same time text is being captured.

File transfers run in the background. Not full background/reset-proof like Shadow, but better than STalker which stops when you enter the menu bar.

Command language is a full Basic interpreter. It also multitasks with the rest of the program. So you can run Basic, edit files, do file transfers, all at the same time. Basic has re-entrant execution. So if you define a function key to execute a Basic command, it stops the current Basic program, creates a new Basic interpreter (less than 1K overhead), runs the function key macro, then the current Basic program restarts. Same thing for the dial directory autologon.

Basic (and the rest of the program) allocate memory sparingly and release memory back to the system. The program is completely MultiTOS compatible and in fact run 90% of the time in MultiTOS.

Storm also supports the Atari clipboard for cut and paste. I use a custom font and driver for extra speed. However, it doesn't cheat with GEM and works on TT and should work on other programs. It's 12 pixels high with monochrome so you get 24 lines in a window with room for a typeahead."



Albert Dayes asks some good questions:

"Within the Window does STORM give you 80 columns? In some other windowing software one gets less than 80 columns due to the scroll bars etc? Also is there a 132 column mode? Since everything is loadable one should be able to create almost any type of emulation. Will there be a special developer kit for this or will it be included in the program?"

Alan Page answers:

"You get 80 columns in the terminal window. There is not as yet 132 columns. I will probably have 132 columns, but you would have to scroll unless you have a machine with higher resolution graphics. I will release source code for the loadable emulations at some point. I will probably not have documented it enough to release it at the time we ship Storm because getting the program out is the #1 priority."

Hal Dougherty asks Alan Page:

"Didn't you write the original Flash?"

Alan answers:

"Yes I wrote the original Flash. However, Antic Publishing owned the trademark. Apparently, before they went bust they sold the trademark (even though they owed me \$\$). Storm is a completely new program. Not a line of code from the original Flash is in it."

From The Atari Arts Forum

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The recent conference "starring" Atari's own Bill Rehbock, generated a lot of message traffic. Albert Dayes, that busy guy from Atari Explorer Magazine says:

"It was a very good conference. I'm glad CIS conference was last since we already had the answers to many general questions and now can get the specifics on how it all works."

Sysop Ron Luks tells us:

"I'm glad to hear people liked the CONference last night, and I

thought Bill Rehbock's answers were just great. He's really my all time favorite CO guest. His answers are always informative (and he types real fast. [grin]) I will tell you that I was not too thrilled with the system response from CompuServe's end. It turns out that the Convention Center software was sharing an already overloaded host system, so the response time was clearly sub-par. Bill has already agreed to come back later this fall (probably late October) and I've promised him that we will do better on our end."

Albert tells Ron:

"I guess it was nicer in that it just wasn't specs being thrown out but it was more concrete solutions to problems. I know that many questions about the FALCON that are being asked in the Atari forums were answered. The video and genlock questions in particular ... who would believe that I can have a simple direct to disk digital recording system at better than professional quality for \$800, plus run all my ST software with VGA graphics, animated icons and it multi-tasks.

It has also been a while since I have seen all of the Atari employees so excited about an Atari computer. After this conference it is easy to understand why!!

To get an IBM PC up to the MPC (multi-media standard) is well over \$800 for a good sound board. And for the same price I can have a complete multi-media workstation that does it all."

Ron Luks replies to Albert:

"While I agree with you about the wonderful capabilities of the new machine, I don't think you should talk in terms of \$800. Remember-- that's for the base machine, no HD, and with only 1 Mb of RAM. I just don't see that as a practical configuration for anyone. I would think that 4MB of Ram is the minimum and that most people will try to opt for the max of 14Mb. Similarly, just how effective will direct-to-disk recording be if the user has no HD or a small 60Mb HD? The Falcon sounds great to me too, but I don't think we are helping the cause by talking about \$800 units. This configuration sounds to me like the proposed 260ST (256k ST). It just won't fly."

James D. Port posts:

"Good points on the \$800 issue. It should be noted that at 44.1K sampling rate, stereo direct-to-disk recording burns up disk space at a rate of 11Mbytes a minute."

Ron Luks tells us:

"I've invited Bill Rehbock and Sam Tramiel to come online in CO again at the end of October/beginning of November just before COMDEX. I \*will\* insist CIS set us up for better performance next time."

From The Atari Vendors Forum  
=====

Matt Koundakjian asks:

"Is it possible to have as a "program of the week" kind of thing, a AUTO folder utility that loads a new system font, such as a 2050 byte .FNT file (Degas font, I think)?"

Mike from Double Click Software tells Matt:

"Good idea Matt, but you're almost a year late on the program of the week. :-) Still, the idea may be used by some other ambitious programmer out there. Thanks for the idea, tho, you never know!"

While he's on the subject, Matt tells Mike:

"I really didn't ever understand the whole idea of program of the week, but I sure did appreciate the programs that were written! I have a few in my auto folder, I think."

On the subject of postscript printing with Spectre GCR, the Mac emulator from Gadgets by Small, Mitch Wagner tells Mark at Gadgets by Small:

"Here's a report on my further attempts to print to my NEC postscript printer from my TT/Spectre GCR. I replaced my serial cable with a null modem cable and the printer now responds to a print command. The LCD gives me a series of "Processing" and "Waiting" messages just like it should, but no paper ever comes out. I used a system 6 laserwriter driver modified with the installer script you uploaded. If I print to a postscript file using the system 7 laserwriter driver and transvert the file to the Atari side, I can usually print it, no problem. Of course, in that method I can't use any downloadable fonts. Is there anyway you could upload the installer script for modifying a Laserwriter 7.0 driver? Didn't you say the whole file was ~900 K? I would take the time (and expense) of downloading the whole thing, but I think all I need is the script."

George Richardson of Merlin Group asks Mitch:

"Are you downloading the Apple Postscript dictionary to your printer before you try printing? My understanding is that you must use a terminal program to do this before you can print."

Mark at Gadgets by Small posts:

"George is correct. The file that does this is called TTPRINT and is included in the DMMHLP file I will be uploading. BTW, the DMMHLP file is a Compactor file (ie, DMMHLP.CPT) and needs to be downloaded in MAC mode. Also, don't worry...the TTPRINT program runs on regular STs as well."

After trying out the new file, Mitch posts:

"!!!EUREKA!!! [fireworks going off in the background] It works! I thank you and my printer thanks you. I'm a happy boy."

Well folks, I've gone WAY over the space I'm allowed, but I thought all of these big happenings warranted it. Tune in again next week to hear what they are saying when...

#### People Are Talking

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#### IMPORTANT NOTICE!

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STReport International Online Magazine is available every week in the ST Advantage on DELPHI. STReport readers are invited to join DELPHI and become a part of the friendly community of Atari enthusiasts there.

#### SIGNING UP WITH DELPHI

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Using a personal computer and modem, members worldwide access DELPHI services via a local phone call

#### JOIN -- DELPHI

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Via modem, dial up DELPHI at 1-800-695-4002  
then...

When connected, press RETURN once or twice  
and...

At Password: type STREPORT and press RETURN.

DELPHI's Basic Plan offers access for only \$6.00 per hour, for any baud rate. The \$5.95 monthly fee includes your first hour online.

If you spend more than 200 minutes online a month, you'll save money by enrolling in DELPHI's optional 20/20 Advantage Plan. You'll enjoy up to 20 hours online each month for the ridiculously low price of just \$20.00! And if you go over that 20 hours, the rate goes up to only \$1.20, still 1/5th the price of other services.

There is no signup fee for joining the Basic Plan. There is a fee of

\$39 when you join the 20/20 Advantage Plan, a one-time \$19 signup fee and your first month's \$20 fee.

These connect rates apply for access via Tymnet or SprintNet (within the continental United States) during home time (7 p.m. to 7 a.m. weekdays and all day weekends) or via direct dial around the clock. Telecom surcharges apply for daytime or international access via Tymnet or SprintNet. See Using DELPHI online for detailed information on telecom surcharges.

For more information, call: DELPHI Member Services at 1-800-544-4005

DELPHI is a service of General Videotex Corporation of Cambridge, Mass.

:IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:  
DELPHI INTRODUCES THE 10/4 PLAN.

Effective July 1, 1992, all Basic Plan members will be upgraded to the 10/4 Plan and receive 4 hours of usage each month for only \$10! For full details, type GO USING RATES. SprintNet home time to begin at 6:00 p.m.! Effective July 1, 1992, you may access DELPHI via SprintNet beginning at 6:00 p.m. local time without incurring a telecom surcharge. To find the SprintNet node nearest you, type GO USING ACCESS.

Try DELPHI for \$1 an hour!

For a limited time, you can become a trial member of DELPHI, and receive 5 hours of evening and weekend access during this month for only \$5. If you're not satisfied, simply cancel your account before the end of the calendar month with no further obligation. If you keep your account active, you will automatically be enrolled in DELPHI's 10/4 Basic Plan, where you can use up to 4 weekend and evening hours a month for a minimum \$10 monthly charge, with additional hours available at \$3.96. But hurry, this special trial offer will expire soon! To take advantage of this limited offer, use your modem to dial 1-800-365-4636. Press <RET> once or twice. When you get the Password: prompt, type IP26 and press <RET> again. Then, just answer the questions and within a day or two, you'll officially be a member of DELPHI!

DELPHI- It's getting better all the time!

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> SPELLING SENTRY STR InfoFile "... a desk accessory.."  
"\*\*\*\*\*"

SPELLING SENTRY  
=====

Wintertree Software Inc.

Is proud to announce the release of a new product for Atari ST/TT computers: Spelling Sentry -- a desk accessory that adds a spell-checking

capability to virtually any other GEM program.

Spelling Sentry can check spelling in various ways, as described in the following paragraphs. It can also expand abbreviations. Since Spelling Sentry is a desk accessory, it's instantly accessible from your favorite word processor, text editor, communications program, or DTP application.

A key feature of Spelling Sentry is its ability to detect spelling errors in real time while you type using other programs, such as word processors. If you type a word containing a spelling error, Spelling Sentry sounds a tone and flashes the screen. Then, with a single mouse-click, you can select the correct spelling from one of the alternatives which Spelling Sentry suggests. Spelling Sentry will automatically replace the misspelled word with the correct one.

Spelling Sentry can also check ASCII files and word-processor documents. Since Spelling Sentry runs as a desk accessory, you can save a file from a text editor or word processor, then invoke Spelling Sentry's check-file feature to look for spelling errors. Spelling Sentry can correct misspelled words in the file interactively. When it finds a misspelled word, Spelling Sentry presents a set of alternative spellings. You can select the correct spelling using the keyboard or mouse, and Spelling Sentry will correct the word in the file. Spelling Sentry can even correct subsequent occurrences of the misspelled word.

A feature of interest to many Atari users is Spelling Sentry's ability to check the contents of the clipboard. The clipboard is a mechanism used to pass information between GEM programs and desk accessories. To use Spelling Sentry's check-clipboard feature, you copy a block of text into the clipboard from your word processor or text editor. Next, click on Spelling Sentry's "Check Clipboard" button. Again, Spelling Sentry presents a dialog showing alternative spellings when it detects a misspelled word. Select the correct spelling from the list of alternatives shown in the dialog. Spelling Sentry corrects the word in the clipboard -- and optionally further occurrences of the error -- automatically. You can then paste the corrected text in the clipboard back into your word processor or text editor.

Many people can correctly spell most of the words they use, but still get stuck on the occasional word. With Spelling Sentry's check-word feature, you can check the spelling of a single word. Spelling Sentry will let you know if the word is spelled correctly. If not, it shows you a list of alternative spellings, from which you can pick the correct one.

Besides being a spelling checker, Spelling Sentry can also expand abbreviations while you type. For example, when you type your initials, Spelling Sentry can replace them with your full name. You can teach Spelling Sentry abbreviations for words and phrases you use frequently, such as your return address, telephone number, "boilerplate" text in business correspondence, and BBS aliases and commands. Programmers can define abbreviations for language constructs and function calls. Spelling Sentry's abbreviation feature also works when you check disk files and the clipboard.

Spelling Sentry can include parts of the date and time when it expands an abbreviation. The parts include:

- \* The year, with or without the century
- \* The month number (01 to 12) and name (January to December)

- \* The day of the month (01 to 31) and of the week (Sunday to Saturday)
- \* The hour in 12-hour (00 to 12) or 24-hour (00 to 23) form
- \* The minute and second
- \* "a.m." or "p.m."

Using this feature, you can easily create abbreviations which include the current date and time in any format you prefer:

Monday, May 11, 1992  
 05/11/92 10 o'clock p.m.  
 10:32 p.m.  
 Creation date: 11-May-92 22:32:15  
 92/05/11 (Monday)

Adding or changing abbreviations is easy with Spelling Sentry's GEM interface. Spelling Sentry uses a window-in-a-dialog approach, showing nine abbreviations at a time. You can scroll the window contents using a standard scroll bar. New abbreviations can be added by clicking on an "Add" button, and existing ones can be removed or changed by selecting them with the mouse. You can even open different abbreviation files, so you can have several sets of abbreviations for different purposes. For a spelling checker to be useful, it must have a large dictionary so it doesn't mistakenly report unknown words as misspelled. Spelling Sentry uses two dictionaries. The main dictionary contains over 100,000 words, including contractions, many proper names, and words spelled according to both American and British rules. The main dictionary is organized in segments that can be loaded from disk to memory as needed. This makes Spelling Sentry adaptable to the capabilities of your system. If your computer has a modest memory capacity, Spelling Sentry will keep most of its main dictionary on disk, loading segments as it needs them. If you have 380K of spare memory, Spelling Sentry will load the entire main dictionary into memory, either all at once or segment-by-segment, for maximum speed.

The user dictionary holds words you use that aren't in the main dictionary. Such words may include your last name, street names, city name, business's name, and so on. The user dictionary is accessed very quickly, and never needs indexing or reformatting. Words in the user dictionary can be edited using the same window-in-a-dialog approach used for updating abbreviations.

An important feature of any spelling checker is its ability to "guess" the correct spelling from a misspelled word. Spelling Sentry is outstanding in this area, matching the misspelled word against words in the dictionary using several sophisticated lexical rules. Spelling Sentry even orders its suggestions so the first word appearing in the list of suggestions is the one most likely to be the correct replacement.

Spelling Sentry was designed to work on the entire line of Atari ST-compatible computers, from the 520ST with 512K of memory to the TT030 with 4Mb+. The only special requirement for Spelling Sentry is a double-sided disk drive. Spelling Sentry runs in a GEM window, so you can park it on the screen where it's out of the way yet still accessible. Spelling Sentry remembers its window position, so you don't have to position it manually each time you reboot.

The 40-page illustrated user's guide that comes with Spelling Sentry was written with the user in mind. It contains patient, step-by-step





providers (ESPs)."

The FCC previously showed an unwillingness to reconsider an earlier ruling in CC Docket No. 89-79 that prohibited companies such as CompuServe from using new and more efficient technologies or service offerings without being subject to common carrier access charges. These charges could be three to four times higher than current charges and would likely be passed along to information services users. This free online area fully explains the ramifications of the access charge rules and features FCCgrams, a fast, economical way to voice your concerns.

In the NEW Public Notice, the FCC now says it wants to receive additional public comment before deciding the pending petitions for reconsideration filed by CompuServe and other information providers.

CompuServe asks that you send a hardcopy letter or FCCgram to the FCC, with copies to the Chairmen of the House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over the FCC, in support of CompuServe's position that information service companies should be allowed to use newer technologies without being charged higher telephone line access charges.

In 1987, a similar letter-writing campaign by online service users helped prevent increased access charges from being implemented. The online area lists the names and addresses of the FCC personnel and Congressmen to whom you should write.

Read more about this issue in Section 2, "Regulatory Affairs," of the Telecommunications Forum (GO TELECOM). Your support of affordable information services is greatly appreciated.

THE FCC MAY DECIDE TO RECONSIDER ITS EARLIER ACCESS CHARGE PROPOSAL THAT COULD INCREASE COMPUSERVE'S COSTS FOR LOCAL ACCESS

In July 1991, the Federal Communications Commission adopted rules in the FCC Docket No. 89-79 access charge proceeding which could increase by up to 300 percent the price of local telephone lines which employ new network features and which are used by information service companies like CompuServe to provide their services to customers. These rules, which would impose what in effect are "modem fees" or "modem taxes" on information service companies, are a revival of proposals first made back in 1987 and 1989 to impose usage-sensitive common carrier-type access charges on information service companies. On August 14, 1992, apparently at least partly in response to several thousand letters recently sent to the FCC and Congress by CompuServe members, the FCC announced that it will reopen the record in the access charge proceeding to determine whether it will reconsider its July 1991 decision. It is important that you understand the genesis of the FCC's access charge proposals, and how you can use the new solicitation of public comment to help fight back.

THE FCC'S PRICE INCREASE PROPOSAL WAS ORIGINALLY DEFEATED IN 1987 THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF COMPUSERVE AND OTHER ONLINE SERVICE MEMBERS LIKE YOU

The ability of CompuServe to offer advanced information services to its members on a reasonably-priced basis is dependent upon being able to obtain cost-based access to local telephone lines. To date, information service companies have been able to use non-usage-sensitive local business lines, obtained from the local telephone company's state tariffs, for distributing their online information services to customers. Under this arrangement, CompuServe has been able to provide its customers with hundreds of services at affordable prices that promote widespread usage.

However, you may recall that in 1987 the FCC issued a proposal which, if adopted, would have required information service providers (ISPs) like CompuServe to abandon their flat-rated, state-tariffed access arrangements. Instead, ISPs would have been required to pay usage-sensitive common carrier access charges, which were originally designed solely to be paid by long distance companies. After a massive letter writing campaign by CompuServe members, the FCC decided not to adopt its carrier access charge proposal.

#### WHY YOUR HELP IS NEEDED NOW

CompuServe and other information service providers have filed petitions with the FCC asking the agency to reconsider its July 1991 access charge decision. Congress also may consider legislation which would prevent the FCC from imposing usage-sensitive carrier access charges on information providers as a condition of obtaining new network features. Now, apparently at least partly in response to letters sent by CompuServe members and the subscribers of other information service providers, the FCC issued a Public Notice on August 14, 1992 soliciting additional public comment on the access charge issues raised in CompuServe's petition for reconsideration and the reconsideration petitions filed by other information service providers. Specifically, the Commission invited additional comment on the "maintenance of the status quo with respect to access charge treatment of enhanced service providers (ESPs)."

CompuServe believes that cost-based access to advanced telephone network functionalities and features will be crucial in bringing the "Information Age" to all consumers. Members like you can help assure that the federal government does not impose what in effect are enormous financial penalties on information service providers and their members simply for wanting to use advanced network functionalities and services.

We have drafted a suggested letter which would be appropriate for you to use to make your views known to the FCC. Please address your letter to the Secretary of the FCC, and send copies to FCC Chairman Alfred Sikes, the other FCC Commissioners, and also Senators Ernest Hollings and Daniel Inouye and Representatives John Dingell and Edward Markey. With your help, we can convince the FCC to change its mind regarding new ONA access charge rules which would only hurt the ability of CompuServe to provide consumers with advanced information services at reasonable prices.

The docket number for the FCC proceeding is CC Docket No. 89-79 and this docket number should be placed on the letter. The FCC's decision which CompuServe and other information service providers seek to have reconsidered is styled "Creation of Access Charge Sub-element for Open Network Architecture". A brief summary is in the Federal Register at 56 Fed. Reg. 33391, July 24, 1991. This summary is so short as to not be helpful since it primarily concerns some further issues put out for comment in a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking. The full text of the FCC's original decision (FCC 91-186) was released to the public on July 11, 1991. The full text may be found at 6 FCC Rcd 45254 (1991) The FCC Public Notice released on August 14, 1992 requests that comments be filed by September 30, 1992, with reply comments by October 30, 1992.

#### SUGGESTED LETTER AND TEXT RECIPIENTS

SEND YOUR LETTER  
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Please note, that it is important for you to personalize your letter as

indicated. Your message will be more effective if it is not perceived as simply a form letter, but instead gives your individual reasons for opposing access charges.

SUGGESTED TEXT  
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Dear Secretary Searcy:

Re: FCC Docket No. 89-79

This letter is submitted in response to the Public Notice issued August 14, 1992, in CC Docket No. 89-79 soliciting additional public comment on the "maintenance of the status quo with respect to access charge treatment of enhanced service providers (ESPs)." While the FCC thus far has been unwilling to reconsider the position it adopted in July 1991 that would result in increased telephone access charges to online information services that wish to use new advanced telephone network features in delivering information services, it should do so now. If such higher charges for using local telephone lines were to be imposed and passed on to information service subscribers, this likely would have the effect of severely curtailing the use of information services just as the mass market for such service is beginning to develop.

I urge you not to impose any new usage-sensitive carrier access charges or "modem fees" on information services. The FCC also should allow CompuServe and other information service providers to use new and more efficient technologies without becoming subject to higher access charges. After all, the services provide a viable avenue to further education, information and knowledge to the American public and taxpayer.

At this point:

(State that you use CompuServe and other information services of your choice and describe how you use them;)

(State that you will curtail your use of information services if the FCC's access charge rules cause price increases;)

(If you live in a rural area, state that affordable access is important in being able to use online information services such as CompuServe;)

Thank you for your consideration.

ADDRESS INFORMATION FOR RECIPIENTS

The letter should be sent to the Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission, with copies to the FCC Chairman and Commissioners. A copy of the letter may also be sent to key members of Congress involved with Telecommunications policy.

Ms. Donna R. Searcy  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Chairman Alfred C. Sikes  
Federal Communications Commission

1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Andrew C. Barrett  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Ervin S. Duggan  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Sherrie P. Marshall  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 826  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner James H. Quello  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 802  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Downtown Copy Center  
1114 21st Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

The Honorable Ernest Hollings  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
The Honorable John Dingell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Edward Markey  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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:HOW TO GET YOUR OWN GENIE ACCOUNT:

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To sign up for GENie service:

Set your communications software to Half Duplex (or Local Echo)

Call: (with modem) 800-638-8369.

Upon connection type HHH (RETURN after that).

Wait for the U#= prompt.

Type: XTX99587,CPUREPT then, hit RETURN.

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1. August Genie Billing Is Complete. To Review Yours, Type:.....*BILL
2. Science Center has Downloadable Weather Maps (GIFs), type.....SCIENCE
3. Meet Fred Langa of Windows Magazine.....WINDOWS
4. REGISTER For A BUSINESS COURSE Online This Fall.....CALC
5. Pet Loss and Memorial Service.....PET
6. R.A. Salvatore headlines C O N L I N E   V I I in.....TSR
7. Nana, Grampy, Grandma. A special day for them at.....GENIEMALL
8. GEN CON Game Fair Recap with RPGA Guru Skip Williams.....TSR
9. Christmas is Coming -- The Catalog is Here -- at.....JCPENNEY
10. WordPerfect Trade-up Back: IBM/Mac/Amiga/Atari/Apple.....WP
11. Spend an hour with us. FREE ... in .....MAINFRAME
12. New improved searching in D&B.....D&BPROFILES
13. Good news -- GREAT GRAYS from your printer on the.....PSRT
14. Astro-glyph CLIP ART now in.....ASTROLOGY
15. Great support, Good Friends, most up-to-date info in.....A2

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ST Roundtable Realtime Conference Special Events	
September 14th (Monday)	"After the Show" with John K. Tarpinian Bob Brodie and John Nagy.
Sept. 21 & 28	The CODEHEAD Double Header... more details to follow...
Realtime Conferences begin at 10:00 p.m. Eastern Time.	

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Atari/Falcon030 Realtime Conference  
Featuring Atari's Bill Rehbock  
September 9, 1992

Part II

<[Sysop] JEFF.W> On behalf of the Atari ST Roundtable, I welcome all of you to the Atari / Falcon 030 RealTime Conference (Part II), featuring Atari's Bill Rehbock.

Prior to the Atari Messe in Dusseldorf, Sam Tramiel previewed several details regarding the Falcon 030 for us here in conference. While a great deal was revealed at that time, some items had to be deferred until after the show. Tonight, Bill Rehbock is here to fill in more information and to answer our questions.

Bill, thank you for being with us this evening. If you have any opening remarks you'd like to make, please go ahead. Afterward, I'll go directly to questions from our friends.

<[Bill@Atari] B.REHBOCK> Thanks, Jeff!

As most of you know, the initial showing of the Atari Falcon030 was made at the CeBIT Show in Hannover, Germany back in March. Since then, the interest in this exciting new product has been quite high. Recently, Sam Tramiel came on GENie to share with all of you the full specifications of the Atari Falcon030. Sam's visit on GENie was a prelude to the Dusseldorf Atari Messe, where Atari gave a full public showing of the Atari Falcon030. That show kicked off the world wide roll out for the Atari Falcon030.

Here in the US, we are preparing to continue the rollout to the Atari Community, and the rest of the world. Naturally, we want to showcase those efforts here on GENie, our official online service. I'm very pleased to be here once again in a formal conference setting on GENie.

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Atari Corporation this year, all of our efforts are focusing on making the Atari Falcon030 rollout successful. Upcoming events where the Atari Falcon030 will be shown include the Southern California Atari Faire in Glendale this coming weekend, and a general meeting of the Boston Computer Society in two weeks.

Naturally, you'll be able to keep up with all of our activities for the Atari Falcon030 right here on GENie. Be sure to check in the Bulletin Board of the ST Roundtable for the latest information on these events! The information that you will find there is without a doubt the most up to date information available anywhere!! Darlah, Jeff, Sandy, Lou and the rest of the staff of the ST Roundtables make GENie the number one online resource for Atari owners world wide!

Don't forget that there will also be a conference this coming Monday night AFTER the Southern California Atari Faire, where Bob Brodie, John

King Tarpinian, and John Nagy will also be fielding questions! I'm sure that there will be some Atari Falcon030 products shown at the Glendale Show, so be sure to be here for that conference, too!

Tonight, I'm prepared to discuss in detail with you the Atari Falcon030. Feel free to ask me any technical questions regarding the capabilities of the Atari Falcon030, especially those very interesting video modes!

:-) Let's take some questions, Jeff!

<[Andy] L.SMITH70> I read somewhere that the icons in TOS 4.0 will be \_animated\_ and finally in full color. Any comments and details about these "cosmetic" improvements?

<B.REHBOCK> Andy, yes the icon information can now have color data for any mode with 16 or more colors.

The icon is stored in both selected and normal states so that you can have a different style (or even color) for the selected state. When you click on it, it can have an animated appearance.

The AES in this new version of TOS has support for 3D objects, also.

<[Kim] K.SWIFT> Is an object-oriented development system in the works, one that supports MIDI and the DSP chip fully?

<B.REHBOCK> There are developers that are working on C++ environments for TOS, and we are trying to get all of the Falcon and MultiTOS information out as quickly as possible to make sure these environments are as rich as possible.

<[Kim] K.SWIFT> Thanks.

<JONPETERSOHN> Hi Bill. I've been out of touch lately.

What kind of \$\$ are we talking about for the Falcon 030, and how downward compatible is it with ST software in general, and PageStream and TouchUP in particular?

<B.REHBOCK> Jon, the Falcon030 is amazingly downward compatible. In many ways, more so than the TT was.

PageStream, Calamus, TouchUp, EasyDraw, and all of the favorites work quite well.

<JONPETERSOHN> Will it be sold without a HD, so I can use my ICD drive with it?

<B.REHBOCK> Yes, definitely. The base configuration will have 1 meg of RAM and no HD for \$799.00 You can add any SCSI HD or CD-ROM, Magneto-Optical, Floptical, etc.

<[Sysop] JEFF.W> Bill ... Now might be a good time to run down the basic configurations and prices. We have the 1 meg/no HD base unit at \$799.00. Where does it go from there?

<B.REHBOCK> The next logical configuration is 4 meg RAM and 65 meg HD for \$1399.00. We haven't quite settled on a price for the 14 meg RAM, 65 meg HD version yet. With that much ram, fluctuations do make a difference. We'll have prices in mid-October for that.

<[mike] M.HILL13> Bill, I'm a little confused on which monitor is the "BEST" choice for the Falcon. John T. put up a nice list which shows what's available with a VGA monitor and what's available with the Atari color monitor.

I have a Multisync monitor. Will it allow me to display more modes than the other two? What's the best choice?

<B.REHBOCK> VGA monitors, by definition do not overscan off of the edges, but you still can get the maximum real-estate. If you have a VGA monitor, it is best for 640x480x256 colors, with no interlace flicker.

If you want overscan for animation and such, use the composite video output to your VCR. You'll have full overscanned TV-quality output. (This is what I am currently doing :-)

<[James] J.VOGH> Can you explain how the DSP chip is connected to main memory?

<B.REHBOCK> The DSP's host interface port 8-bits wide is memory mapped normally. Applications send commands and/or data to it via a very complete set of O/S calls.

The interesting part is that using the built-in connection matrix, an application can also connect the SSI port of the DSP to the Codec or to the DMA record/playback system so that you can DMA data to or from the DSP also.

<[James@alphat] B.ABELL> Was there any software shown at the messe that turns Falcon into a MIDI controlled digital sampler?

<B.REHBOCK> No, not shown at the show. Honestly, the audio-related offerings were a little scarce at the Messe due to the fact that we changed the audio system in March based on developer input at CeBIT. The DMA system and DSP interface is really excellent now.

<[myeck] MYECK.WATERS> Two questions about digital sound: 1)Can the Codec(s) be set to 44.1Khz? 2)Assuming a full-blown HD-recording setup, how many channels can we have going simultaneously playback wise?

<B.REHBOCK> The built-in base frequencies are really set for STE



compatibility. The system allows you to inject any clock into the sampling system, so that you can get 44.1 for CD and 48 for DAT. People that are going to be doing high-end stuff like this are probably going to be hanging AES/EBU SPDIF interfaces off of the DSP Port anyway, and it will have the necessary \$4 crystal in it.

The AES/EBU SPDIF interface allows direct connection to DAT players and CD Mastering recorders.

It is possible to use the DSP to correct the system to playback 44.1 or 48 KHz samples with perfect quality, but purists wouldn't say so :-)

<[Kent] K.CAVAGHAN2> Hi Bill, with the closure of Atari Canada (naughty boys,you <G>), what are the rollout plans for promotion in Canada and when the Falcon be expected to land in the Great White North <G>?

<[Sysop] JEFF.W> Bill, please recap the rollout plans for the USA also. Thanks.

<B.REHBOCK> We are considering the big roll-out at the Boston Computer Society on Sept. 23rd to be the North-American roll-out.

We intend to hit the North American market with strong promotion, both in PR and advertising. The advertising, because we are going to be attempting to introduce a non-MSDOS machine into the US, is going to be very careful and done in close connection with dealers in market areas.

If we shoot the shotgun with both barrels, it will hurt us if there is useless advertising where dealers don't exist yet.

We need to do more of a surgical strike. :-) We have hired a very reputable PR firm, Redgate Communications to handle the roll-out and initial advertising. You may have noticed that Redgate's EastCoast office handles Apples Macintosh Product Directory, here online on GENie. I personally have been very pleased with them.

The Canadian market will be handled by the area managers. Though the teething problems we have had in the last month were a little more painful than I'd have liked, things are smoothing out now and we are determined to have everything tuned to perfection within the next month.

(Please let me know if that was all clear, I don't want to seem like I'm beating around the bush)

<[Sysop] JEFF.W> What regions will be among the first to see product and advertising between now and the end of the year, Bill? When do you hope to have complete North American coverage?

<B.REHBOCK> We are working those details out right now, but naturally, Southern CA, the CA Bay Area, Chicago, NY will be the primary targets at first. General distribution plans are just firming up to ensure that dealers will be able to get units quickly and effortlessly.

Complete NA sales coverage should be just after Christmas and into

January, with regional advertising tracking the dealers that order product.

<J.D.BARNES> Is there any plan to maintain a public "compatibility list"? There are a great many applications that will have to be upgraded to work with MultiTOS even if Falcon TOS is as friendly as it is claimed to be. People will be greatly disappointed if their precious applications crash when they try to run them without some sort of warning.

<B.REHBOCK> We are sending a Falcon to Pacific Software Supply (the primary ST software distributor in North America) and they have graciously offered to assist in helping us run as many applications through the Falcon as quickly as possible.

The list will appear here, on GENie and in Atari Explorer.

<[Bill Renkel] W.RENKEL> Do you have any idea of the price point of the 386SX emulation board?? The one for the MSTe and TT is somewhere around \$600. Also, are you planning rollout of the new FSM/GDOS with the Falcon 030. When will the SLM printers be supported?

<B.REHBOCK> I have an idea, but since neither developer has announced a price, I shouldn't say. It is very reasonable.

FSMGDOS should be available in the same time frame. We have switched the scaling technology to the Bitstream Speedo Font Scaler, which is much, much faster, has a very large font availability, you can order fonts from Bitstream's 1-800 number, you can buy fonts at Egghead Software, and it uses much less memory.

GDOS will now offer applications pair or track kerning control, as well as other benefits such as ease of getting font Bezier Outlines.

It drives me crazy that this has been delayed, but we will all really benefit from the delay.

The SLM will have to be connected to the Falcon via a SCSI to ACSI convertor. There are a few solutions in the works for this. It is a really easy third party project; originally Atari was going to produce one, but when we heard somebody was doing one, we didn't want to compete with them.

<[FAST TECH] J.ALLEN27> Hi there!!

<B.REHBOCK> Hey, Jim!

<[FAST TECH] J.ALLEN27> Folks have asked how the Falcon's memory works. How fast is it, how much time does the CPU get, etc.

For instance, the ST memory has a 250ns cycle time, and the CPU gets every other cycle, video gets the others. How does this all work on the Falcon?

<B.REHBOCK> I honestly just dug around to see if I had the system timing diagrams handy. (I don't, but I'll have them with me at Glendale) It does work basically the same, with COMBEL splitting up the memory cycles.

COMBEL accesses RAM in page mode, 32-bits wide and talks to VIDEL (the video controller) on what we call the 'mad bus'. The CPU sees COMBEL as a 16-bit bus, much like the Mac LC II.

<NEVIN-S> Hello Bill!

I have two questions. First, what challenges do you see in the new Macintosh low-priced line, which will be appearing in October with a massive media launch and shelf space in Sears, etc.?? One followup please.

<B.REHBOCK> It will be rough, but no more difficult than fighting the popularity of PC clones in the market. Sears did nothing for the PS/1, and I'm not really convinced that it will mean all that much for the Performa line from Apple.

We have to get back into the U.S. market with a steady push, and by treating our dealers and users well.

<NEVIN-S> Thanks. Looking at Apple again, that company was very near death a few years ago when they realized that the computer biz relies on on marketing as well. So Steve Jobs, the founder, resigned, and a great marketer, John Scully turned Apple around. Do you ever envision an Atari which would become a producer of great hardware like the Falcon, in which they would provide this hardware to another company which would handle all marketing, sales, advertising, etc?

<B.REHBOCK> Right now, it is difficult for our users to evangelize the product to their friends and relatives, even though they knew in their heart it was the best thing in the world. Our goal is to give them the ammunition now. We have not directly entertained an idea like you have described, but Jack himself has said "it will take serious marketing effort to make a dent in the U.S."

<[Network 23] R.MARTIN22> Can you give us any additional "desktop" features of MultiTos (4.0)? Also, what parts will be in ROM and what parts on disk (how will these disk-based parts improve TOS-in-ROM?

<B.REHBOCK> The ROM-based code will contain the VDI, an AES that is single and multitasking aware, GEMDOS, and the BIOS and XBIOS functions.

The Multitasking Kernal and other utilities will be ram-loaded, and we will be able to release maintenance upgrades easily.

MultiTOS has expanded interprocess communication, drag and drop standards, so that you can grab a file from a open desktop window, drop it on a window of a currently running application, have that application react accordingly.

We also have defined a way to minimize windows and applications, so that

your desktop doesn't get cluttered.

MultiTOS also allows you to move and manipulate background windows, which is really a nice feature.

<[Network 23] R.MARTIN22> One last question...when you say "rollout" in Sept-Dec., do you mean product availability or public announcement?

<B.REHBOCK> The roll-out will begin on Sept. 23rd, with a strong push to get dealers signed up between then and Comdex (Nov. 16th). Units will ship to North America around the end of October. (Developer units are already on their way)

(Sept 23rd is BCS)

<[FAST TECH] J.ALLEN27> Hi Again!!

Does the CPU "see" ram as 32bits wide, and does it use the STERM or DSACKx signals as access terminations?

I Just want to be sure I understand.

<B.REHBOCK> Yes, I was looking at the system chart :-)

Yes, it does (32 bits wide), and I'm going through the system spec to check on your other queries.

Actually, I'm not sure everyone here is interested, Jim. :-)

<[Sysop] JEFF.W> Would this be better answered in GEmail, the Dev RT, or the BB, Bill?

<B.REHBOCK> I'd be happy to double-check and answer in the public BBS, Jeff.

<[Sysop] JEFF.W> Okay, we'll go on to the next person then.

<SAM-RAPP> Hello Bill! Can you please explain the 64K color mode. I have heard that it is not supported by AES/VDI. Also, where can I get Falcon system info as a non developer? Do you know of any books about Falcon to be released (such as the books for the ST by Abacus) ?

<B.REHBOCK> The 64k color mode is definitely supported by the AES and VDI. The Falcon documentation is available to non-developers, just like the rest of the kit.

The Falcon kit, including DSP debugger, will be available for \$80.00.

It has all of the new video VDI calls, the Color Icon AES info, hardware expansion connector info, etc.

<[Sysop] JEFF.W> Is that kit available now and do you know of any 3rd party publishers coming out with anything?

<B.REHBOCK> The kit is at the printer now. I will have the first copies for commercial developers at Glendale, and the kit will be available to the public at the end of this month.

Data Becker has already done a book in German, and they plan to release it in English also. I am sure that somebody like Ralph Turner will be doing a book also.

<[Sysop] JEFF.W> Is Atari accepting orders for the kit now? What is the address for ordering?

<B.REHBOCK> Please send checks or money orders to:

Atari Corp.  
1196 Borregas Ave.  
Sunnyvale, CA, 94089-1302  
Attn: Falcon Docs

<[Needs UNIX!] JM.HAWTHORNE> Will Atari release UNIX/Xwindows for the Falcon? Also why not put the os on portfolio style rom cards to allow easy change.

<B.REHBOCK> S8A JEIDA or BEE card for the O/S is very expensive, compared to the PLCC rom we are now using. It would be nice; we are considering alternatives down the road.

We are exploring the possibility of having some sort of UNIX on Falcon030, but it's not very exciting on a 16MHz '030.

(In other words, I doubt it.)

<[Chris C.] C.CASSADAY> In Sam's RTC, he mentioned that he was hoping for a home voice-mail type system to be developed for the Falcon030. Is Atari, itself, developing any new applications of this nature to help 'get the ball rolling', so-to-speak? Also, is it safe to say that the Falcon 030 is 'class B certified'?

<B.REHBOCK> The F030 has passed all of the Class-B tests; we are waiting for the actual government paperwork so that we can ship consumer machines with labels. (That why the late Oct. timeframe.)

We are working closely with several developers to make sure that the voice/fax mail system ball keeps rolling.

<[New Dealer] MAG.SOFTWARE> Bill!!!

3 \_quickie\_ questions:

1) When will Atari be releasing dealer prices?

- 2) Will the new TOS 4.0 with MultiTOS be available as an upgrade for the TT030 and when?
- 3) Will the Falcon030 have a 50 HZ mode for compatibility with some European games?

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<B.REHBOCK> good Plug, Jeff :-)

- 1) Right after BCS
- 2) Should be around November-December; F030 is the main priority.
- 3) VIDEL is very STE Shifter Compatible, most of the undocumented bit-banging still works.

<B.AEIN> Will there be Falcons for sale at WAACE? Will there be a direct compatibility of games between the falcon and the 64bit Jag game machine? Can you give Quick index numbers yet? What games will be released for the Falcon immediately?

<B.REHBOCK> I am not 100% sure if they'll be for sale at WAACE.

I will not comment regarding Jaguar, sorry.

No, I don't have Quick Index Numbers, I am sure somebody will try at Glendale :-)

I don't have the release schedule handy for games software, Mike Fulton is getting it, and I'll comment in a little bit.

<S.D.ELLIOTT> what technical info is provided with the Falcon? Also, What is the fee to become a commercial level developer?

<B.REHBOCK> Comprehensive technical docs come only with developer units, or by purchasing them separately, as I stated earlier. You must have a product planned to become a commercial developer. The cost of becoming a commercial developer is currently \$250.00.

<[James@alphat] B.ABELL> What software will be bundled with the Falcon?

<B.REHBOCK> Calappt, a personal information manager with scheduler, phonebook and dialer. Procalc, which many of you may have seen, a true-color Breakout, a game called Landmines, the System Audio Manager, a utility that allows you to record any sound and accompany various system functions (such as alert boxes, window opening and closing, the file selector) with them, as well as map any key to sounds (without slowing the system down).

We will also be bundling an easy-to-use stereo direct-to-disk recording system with the machine that can sample, record and edit 16-bit stereo 50KHz audio until you fill up your hard drive :-)

Oh yes, and a talking clock.

<J.VANHOOSE> Will the Falcon accept the NEC 3D monitor cable as is? From the video pin out diagram in the library, it appears not. The Falcon port is a 19 pin plug while the NEC 3D has a 15 pin mini D sub plug. However, the pin outs match with the exception of the audio and Falcon's four extra pins Thanks Jeff and appreciate your time Bill

<B.REHBOCK> There are little monitor adapters that you plug into the machine that tell it what kind of monitor you intend to plug in. There is a 15 pin VGA adapter, an ST adapter for SCxxxx and SMxxx monitors, a SCART/Peritel cable, and a composite video/mixed mono audio adapter.

<ATARI-OZ> Bill, tell us about the software synergy available/planned to enable us to present a personal multimedia platform.

Competition is tough out there and the team at Antic (sorry AutoDesk) have done a great job in raising the stakes.

<B.REHBOCK> We are working with several developers on solutions along the lines of Macromind Director and others. Wait until the people at Glendale see the demo that you and Tony Barker did!

We are very excited about the power that the Atari Falcon030 will bring to users in terms of Multimedia Authoring.

<ATARI-OZ> Don't give too much away Bill. Just be sure folks to go to Glendale :- ) Sorry, I can't be there . . .

Can you tell us what Lee S. is working on from Lexicor?

<B.REHBOCK> Lee Seiler from Lexicor really should make his own product announcements. (I don't want to speak on his behalf.)

<J.YEGERLEHNE> GA Hi, I have two questions:

1. Does the clipboard standard (defined for developers) support cutting and pasting of vector images (consisting of VDI meta-commands)? This would allow, for instance, a graph to be cut from, say, First Graph, and then pasted into a document processor (assuming both applications supported the clipboard). I think this kind of capability is especially important to make use of the new multi-tasking capabilities.
2. The 56001 can support, I think, up to two local 24 bit X 64K RAM address spaces. How much of this local memory comes installed in the Falcon?

Thanks.

<B.REHBOCK>

- 1) Yes, as defined it supports metafiles. You simply cut SCRAP.GEM to the clipboard, and paste the same.

2) The 56K in the Falcon is accompanied by 32K words of 24-bit wide 0-wait state 25ns static ram.

<H.NAGRA1> How easy is it to genlock the video on the Falcon? Will a genlock device be available with the Falcon's introduction? Also can the VGA modes display a 256 level grey scale?

<B.REHBOCK> The Falcon030 was born to Genlock. The video port has external v-sync and dot-clock inputs, as well as an overlay output signal for easy video titling.

We will be showing a genlock at Comdex, I think it should be shipping by the end of the year.

<[Mike Allen] M.ALLEN14> How about a 14meg, no HD version? 2-1/2 IDEs are a little pricey now compared to SCSI. Where and at what rate are the F030s being produced? Don't forget your loyal, GOOD dealers (Toad, Computer Studio, etc.) outside of the major market areas in your push for new dealers. Ditto for 3rd party developers. With all those resolution modes, what does an ASSIGN.SYS file look like?

<B.REHBOCK> We definitely will not forget the dealers that have stuck with us through the past years. We plan to have dealer pricing for all of the possible permutations of the machine.

ASSIGN.SYS has actually gotten simpler. The rule that applications are supposed to follow is open your workstation using getrez() + 2. Apps that do this work great. (Including GEMVELOPE, EasyDraw, G-Print, PKSWrite)

<M.HOYT2> What CODEC are you using in the Falcon?

<B.REHBOCK> The Crystal 4216.

<M.HOYT2> Thanks

<B.REHBOCK> We have been very please with its performance.

<[Network 23] R.MARTIN22> Any Dungeon Master's on the horizon...software that makes people buy the machines? Can you name any new big-name developers (not game) that are signed-on or are very promising?

<B.REHBOCK> There are many very good games on the horizon. Honestly I can't talk about the titles until developers have talked about them themselves. I can mention SPACE JUNK from Imagitec Design, a space-oriented adventure game; Road Riot 4WD from Images, Steel Talons from Koveos, Llamazap from Jeff Minter; Raiden from Imagitec; and Cyber Assault from Koveos.

Most of these will be available between January and June of '93.





ALL AROUND GENIE

=====

Compiled by Lloyd E. Pulley, Sr.  
Senior Editor of ST Report

A few posts that I found interesting in my travels around Genie. These are all from the Jerry Pournelle Roundtable (Category 4, Topic 24) and deal with humor and computers.

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Msg. 54, from Ken Wheeler -

I work for a company that makes portable data terminals. In the Repair department, a unit was returned for warranty service, the problem being described "Unit will not turn on."

The unit must have been in at least three large pieces, plus a collection of miniaturized electronic wreckage and pulverized glass. Even the batteries were seriously bent and dented.

It became a running joke, as it went to Engineering to figure out what exactly was wrong with it. It was forwarded to Rework to include the latest modifications. It finally went to Quality Control to verify the initial problem.

Customer service wimped out, sending out a form letter to the customer, explaining that the unit was damaged and did not qualify as a warranty repair.

We wanted to return the sucker with a "No Trouble Found" tag...

-----

Msg. 58, from B.MARYOTT -

The old AT computers had a between the floppy drive and the lower plate. I've had to open up several machines that "ate my floppy". And had people INSIST, even after I opened it up and retrieved the disk, that they HAD put it in the right slot...

-----

Msg. 60, from Eric Burch -

One of the hats I wear at work is customer support--so I get to visit several offices a day where people demonstrate how the computer (ate the wordprocessing/mangled the calendar/lost a message) ten times in a row. Of course, the customer insists that it's the program's fault and they followed all the directions. At that point I use my "debugging gaze" and magically the problem disappears when the customer tries to recreate the problem in my presence.

I have no explanation of why things seem to work consistently when I'm around. I believe it is my "debugging gaze." Consequently, I've recommended to my management that the company put up posters of me staring at everyone's keyboard in every office (8 by 10's should be

adequate). It's been a few weeks since I've made my suggestion, and the problems have yet to disappear (except, of course, in my presence).

I'm not sure, but I think that the company is about ready to hire a photographer and print up the posters. If the experiment is a success, I'll report the results here and let you know where you can get your own poster. If it doesn't work out, I'll have to figure out what else it might be that keep bugs away (maybe it's my socks; which would mean every office would get a small display case with an old pair of my socks enclosed therein).

-----

Msg. 61, from D.JONES117 -

That also works with mainframes. I had typed something in three times and had it fail three times. But when I call over someone to see if I am doing something wrong, it works. I think that the computer is intelligent and has a sense of humor. It just like making a fool of me.

-----

Msg. 65, from D.TAMPLIN -

As to mystical fixes, the best I saw was when three dumb terminals in the same room suddenly started acting up. The hardware guru came in, looked at the rolling and distorted images, and then went over to each and hit it with the palm of his hand. Of course, they all straightened out immediately....

-----

Msg. 66, from Gary Utter (RT Manager) -

This is a true story.

A service rep from the company that one of my old employers contracted with used to carry an antique "stone hammer" in his tool kit. This was a 3 pound steel hammer designed for stone masonry that had belonged to his grandfather (who was, of course, a stone mason).

He would, in cases where a computer was obstinate, simply wave the thing gently above the circuit board while muttering threats. He said that he got results with this technique about 4 times in 10, and that the results were reliable. He said that it was his opinion that the mass of "cold iron" drove the fairys out of the circuit board. He said this with a straight face.

Since we were paying him to make the computer WORK, I didn't much care HOW he got his results, as long as things worked when he left. :)

I have been looking for one of these hammers for a long time now.

-----

Msg. 67, from Mike Van Pelt -

Re: Hitting the recalcitrant computer.

I did that to. The guy across the hall had submitted his two-week

notice, then accused me [of wiping] his userid out while he still had two weeks to go. I hadn't done any such thing, I was sure my boss hadn't - and we were the only two people who knew the "magic word" to edit userids. Sure enough, I logged off, and logged on as him on my terminal.

He said "Well, it doesn't work on my terminal." We went to his office, I tried logging in with my ID, and sure enough, it said "Illegal Userid/Password." The terminal was sending not what I typed. So I hit the side of the terminal hard enough to move it about 1/4" to the left and said "It'll work now." He said "You're crazy!", I said "Try it", so he did, and it worked.

This was a Univac Uniscope 200 terminal -- Sperry Univac saved \$.29 per terminal by not gold-plating the card edge connectors, and they'd slowly develop greater and more bizarre strains of weird flakiness until you pulled all the cards out and cleaned the connectors. This could be put for a while by hitting them, lifting them an inch or two and dropping them, or dropping the Program Reference Manual (all 8 pounds of it) onto them from a height of a couple of feet.

In a sense they were well built -- they took this sort of mistreatment in stride. I was glad to see them replaced too.

-----

Msg. 69, from J.TENNANT1 -

Back when we all were young, ..., which takes me back further than you, ...

I kept a votive candle burning on top of the Xerox 300 cpm card punch until the fire marshall made me stop.  
(The card punch worked better with the votive candle.)

(The Roman Catholic shop where I bought the candles would have had heart failure long before the fire marshall.)

-----

Msg. 70, from D.JONES117 -

Remembering all the things past. 20 years ago while a mail clerk I ran a Philipsburge Envelope Stuffing Machine. The machine would crank away at full speed as long as the radio was playing. The boss would come in a turn off the radio and watch as the credit statement got mangled. I would clean it up and start the machine back up, and another mangled batch. I would then again start up the machine and ask him to turn on the radio, when he did the machine worked fine, but turn off the radio, and it mangled the statements.

By the way another part of his department produced the statements, so he had to care about the recreating of the statements. I never figured out why the machine liked the music, but it did, and there were not chips, transistors or vacuum tubes in it, just a lot of relays.

-----

Msg. 71, from Jim Partridge -

We had a secretary in the office who had to move out of town to be with a SO. We thought, "Hey, no problem! This is the 90's." We gave her a computer, a fax machine and a modem, and set her up to do some work where she is.

Well, yesterday, I got a frantic call. She was in tears because her machine wouldn't start. "Well," I said, "what does the screen say when you turn it on?"

"Keyboard error ... [etc.]"

So I said, "Is the keyboard cable attached? It's the round plug in the back." Guess what the problem was.

-----

Msg. 72, from W.CHUNG1 -

I remember hearing about a "jinxed" secretary. It seems that most of the floppy disks she inserted into the computer would develop soft errors. The company went through a lot of time and effort before a technician noticed that one of the charms on her charm bracelet was magnetized...

-----

Msgs 73 & 76, from Tom Molina -

I tell the people at work that the FIRST tool in the toolbox to try is the BFR adjustment tool.

BFR = Big Fat Rock. See also BFH or Big Fat Hammer.

-----

Msg. 78, from Jim Gerber -

....What about the clones that put out this message when the keyboard isn't plugged in:

"Bad or missing Keyboard  
Press F1 to continue"

-----

Msg. 79, from C.IRBY1 -

When I was in the Air Force, one system I worked on had a processor box that rode about 6" away from the right engine of the plane (F-4 Phantoms).

Due to the heat and vibration, these boxes would occasionally have problems. The most effective cure we had was to take these \$60,000 classified boxes out of the plane and "drop check" them by dropping them 6" or more onto the concrete runway.

This would fix them about 50% of the time. It reseated the cards inside...

-----









TODAYS date program is a program that reads the system date and displays a text noting important event(s) that happened on today's date.

FILENAME : PC PURSUIT PERSUER  
I.D. : #25618<GENie>  
SIZE : 87552  
UPLOADER : M.FARMER2<GENie>  
STaR Value: UNRated

PC PURSUIT PERSUER is a program by Nathan Prichard. This is version 3.7. This is a working shareware version. \$10.00 shareware fee asked for. Unable to verify due to I'm a not PC PURSUIT user.

FILENAME : ST DISK CATALOG 5.1  
I.D. : #25615<GENie>  
SIZE : 61056  
UPLOADER : J.GNIEWKOWSK<GENie>  
STaR Value: 9.0

STDCAT 5.1 is one of the most involved and integral disk database programs for the ST I have ever come across. This program has features far to numerous to list here. Suffice it to say that if you want to get ALL those disks finally in some kind organized manner, then you MUST have this program!

FILENAME : RECIPE BOX 3.3  
I.D. : #25600<GENie>  
SIZE : 63744  
UPLOADER : A.WATSON6<GENie>  
STaR Value: 6.5

RECIPE BOX is a nice program for the user that stores recipes on their computer. this program appears to be well thought out and the user interface is easy to understand even for the novice.

FILENAME : RECIPE CONVERT 1.1  
I.D. : #25599<GENie>  
SIZE : 58240  
UPLOADER : A.WATSON6<GENie>  
STaR Value: UNRated

This program will help the user in converting recipes from other formats to that of RECIPE BOX. The included formats covered are; Meal-Master, Q-Book, Assistant-Chef, Computer Chef or any ASCII file to RECIPE BOX format. UNRated due to lack of "other" file formats to convert.

FILENAME : EASYGO 1.0  
I.D. : #25597<GENie>  
SIZE : 31232  
UPLOADER : A.WATSON6<GENie>  
STaR Value: 5.0

EASY GO is a file launcher program. The user interface is ZESTDESK like. This program is shareware crippled. The first 6 entries on the

selection screen are usable, the rest are not without registration.  
From Mountain Software.

FILENAME : DIP SWITCH SETTER CPX  
I.D. : #25588<Genie>  
SIZE : 2816  
UPLOADER : E.KRIMEN<Genie>  
STaR Value: UNRated

This CPX will let you change the DIP switches inside your MSTE or TT.  
This program is in German.

FILENAME : SLM DRIVER (Modified)  
I.D. : #25579<Genie>  
SIZE : 29440  
UPLOADER : B.REHBOCK<Genie>  
STaR Value: UNRated

This is a modified FSM/FontGDOS printer driver for the Atari SLM Laser Printer. This file is from Atari. DO NOT call customer service for assistance with this driver; leave comments in the GDOS topic in CAT 14 in the Atari RT on GENIE. UNRated due to I don't have an Atari SLM Laser Printer.

FILENAME : CLASS 4  
I.D. : #25574<Genie>  
SIZE : 108032  
UPLOADER : G.WREN<Genie>  
STaR Value: 7.0

CLASS 4 is a grade book program for teachers/instructors that use their ST/TT in/for the classroom record keeping. The user interface in a clean GEM operation with many options. I rated this program at 7.0 STaR Value because of the detail workmanship that appears to have been put into this program.

FILENAME : IDLE SCREEN SAVER  
I.D. : IDLE.LZH<Delphi>  
SIZE : 14181  
UPLOADER : KMTV<Delphi>  
STaR Value: 8.5

This is one of the, if not the best screen saver I have had the pleasure of using. This Accessory is similar in quality and style like that you would expect from CODEHEAD. The ACC is configurable to just about any need the user may come across. The time limit for engaging the saver is user variable of course, but the user can invoke the saver simply by moving the mouse to any of the user defined corners of the screen. The author also states that this saver is compatible with any screen size or video enhancement including overscan. MUST HAVE!!

FILENAME : ANSI TERMINAL 1.5b  
I.D. : ANSI15b.LZH<Delphi>  
SIZE : 98816  
UPLOADER : JHCURTIS<Delphi>

STaR Value: UNRated

ANSITERM is a 100% ANSI VT-102 compatible terminal program that supports 16 colors, blinking text with 80 columns. Support for X,Y and Z modem protocols.

FILENAME : JEKYL PROTOCOL 1.32  
I.D. : JEKYL132.LZH<Delphi>  
SIZE : 93893 [Jekyl132.lzh] - 40624 [JEKLSHL.LZH]  
UPLOADER : JHCURTIS<Delphi>  
STaR Value: UNRated

JEKYL 1.32 protocol and JEKYL SHELL is the latest version of the JEKYL transfer protocol. JEKYL allows the user to download a file while chatting with the sysop. This program only works with another JEKYL configured terminal or BBS.

FILENAME : POWERDOS  
I.D. : POWERDOS.LZH<Delphi> - #25538<Genie> PDOS<CIS>  
SIZE : 27520  
UPLOADER : LMCCLURE<Delphi> - DRAGONWARE<Genie>  
STaR Value: 5.0

PowerDos from DragonWare is touted to be a very powerful multi-tasking GEMDOS replacement for TOS. I am unable to verify the ability to multi-task, I can state that the I/O disk operations are sped up appreciably. Dragonware also has released a couple of associate files to enhance the users use of PowerDos. If you try it out and I recommend that you do, so be sure to download the files ALIASDRV.LZH, PMONITOR.LZH, MEM\_SNAP.LZH and PDEXPERT.LZH. A developers kit is offered by DragonWare to help developers produce optimum multi-tasking software for PowerDos. I would have given PowerDos a higher STaR rating IF I had been able to verify the MT capabilities! I would like to note that I have problems with PowerDos when attempting to use DIAMOND BACK 2.42.

FILENAME : NESS BENCHMARKS 1.2  
I.D. : NBM12.LZH<Delphi><CIS>  
SIZE : 21275  
UPLOADER : LOTSABYTES<Delphi>  
STaR Value: 7.5

Jim Ness has updated his fine benchmark program. This program is one of the finest benchmark programs for the ST/TT. Give it a try, "I bet mine is faster than yours..."

FILENAME : HARDCORE DEMO  
I.D. : HARDCORE.LZH<Delphi>  
SIZE : 172800  
UPLOADER : DPANKE<Delphi>  
STaR Value: 8.5

Jeff Minter of LLamatron/Mutant Camel fame is now working on a new original game. This "demo" only has 5 levels. The reason for only five levels is that Mr. Minter has another project under his belt that he

is having to time-share with this program. HARDCORE may only have 5 levels, but when you finish the 5th level the game repeats itself beginning at the first level only the level of difficulty increases! This is a must have for ANY Atari gamer!

FILENAME : Dr. NECRO v.0.62  
I.D. : #25630<GENie> - DRNEC.LZH<Delphi><CIS>  
SIZE : 50560  
UPLOADER : K.SCHAFFER4<GENie> - K.SCHAFFER<Delphi>  
STaR Value: 6.5 <color only>

This is a limited level demo of a Dr. Mario clone game. This version .63 has 3 playable levels and info about the finished product. If you are a Dr. Mario fan, this demo is worth a look.

FILENAME : SYSTEM INFO  
I.D. : SYSINFO.LZH<Delphi><CIS>  
SIZE : 55808  
UPLOADER : BRYEDEWAARD<Delphi>  
STaR Value: 5.0

This system utility program allows the curious to view the "insides" of your systems setup. Works(so says the uploader) on ST/STe/TT. This program is from the Netherlands.

\\\\\\\*////

Starting this week, a highlight of DARLAH'S TREAT OF THE MONTH will be presented. This file will change each month, its offered FREE of download charges to Atari ST Roundtable members on GENie. To download the "TREAT" file just enter M475;9 after GENie log-on.

"DARLAH'S TREAT" of the MONTH  
for  
SEPTEMBER 1992

This archive contains a demo version of Oregon Research's new program Diamond Edge. The most advanced set of disk management tools available for your Atari ST: Disk and data recovery, Complete Undelete, file validation and disk diagnostics, Data protection, Disk optimization, Bad sector mapping, hard disk partitioning, Disk information archival editing and restoration, and much more. Diamond Edge will be released on Sept. 12 at the Glendale Atari Show.

Well that about wraps it up for this week. Support your favorite On-Line Service by uploading files to their respective libraries! The three online services ALL offer FREE upload time! When you upload a file the normal billing charges are suspended for the time of the upload.

Until next time...

---



FROM THE FNET..

Conf : Atari Explorer  
Msg# : 250/270 Lines: 15 Read: 2  
Sent : Sep 08, 1992 at 8:39 PM  
To : Tim Shepherd  
From : Wiz at Fnet Node 642, Hero's Haven  
Subj : Re: <2986> Falcon Video

Previously Tim Shepherd wrote:

- Look people, this IS the new market leader! Clones simply DO NOT
- compete It will sell, because it hasn't been even SNIFFED at by our
- local press, and even my MACINTOSH clients are aware of it!!!! Its a
- winner before it hit our shores. My business, even though we DO NOT
- advertise as being an Atari dealer at all...gets a phone call A DAY
- now about it from people who own AMIGAS, MACS, PCS and even Ataris.
- 
- I would say there's something in this!

That's great.... Now sell as many as you can so Atari can come out with a better machine.....One that suits my needs better.... This being expandable, a detached keyboard, higher graphic rez (A must!), a non Atari specific memory arrangement, and a faster processor....

Wiz

Conf : Atari Explorer  
Msg# : 251/270 Lines: 13 Read: 2  
Sent : Sep 08, 1992 at 8:42 PM  
To : Tim Shepherd  
From : Wiz at Fnet Node 642, Hero's Haven  
Subj : Re: <2987> Falcon video

Previously Tim Shepherd wrote:

- The Falcons a real computer for a real man. If you can't handle you'd be
- better off buying something with less power, try a 386 or something.
- It's more in your league by the sounds of it. (at least the Falc is
- NOT backwardly compatible with a Calculator!!!)
- 
- Tim NZ

Hey bud.... Shove it! I've owned Ataris since the 800... Ataris are just what I need.. Only Atari has fallen to far behind, and the Falcon doesn't make up for it.. It is a giant step in the right direction, but it just didn't make it..... Lets hope the 040 will though.....

Wiz

Conf : Atari On-Line  
Msg# : 326/337 Lines: Extended Read: 2  
Sent : Sep 09, 1992 at 06:39 PM  
To : Stingray  
From : Wen Hsieh at Fnet Node 467, SHERWOOD FOREST  
Subj : FALCON AND MONITOR!

S> It just occurred to me last night. If someone out there is goin in  
S> on a Falcon, it is going to cost a bundle. First you get the  
S> computer. A falcon is \$800. They will probably sell at that price  
S> until they get here in quantity. Then you have to get a monitor.  
S> Most decent VGA/SVGA monitors run at LEAST \$450. I know, I run my  
S> ST off one. So, from the get go, the user is spending about \$1250!  
S> And if he goes with the 4meg Falcon(lets be honest, you really have  
S> to as you need the memory and only Atari makes the upgrade boards)  
S> you start at \$1400! Tack the monitor cost onto that and Boom!  
S> \$1850. That is almost Two Grand for a computer with NO software  
S> because I can get a 486 with EVERYTHING and Monitor for \$1600.  
S> That's \$250 less than the Falcon and the 486 comes with a 105meg  
S> hard drive. Atari better drop its prices, it can't afford to sell  
S> the Falcon at that price...

For years, PC users have been telling us prices of S/VGA monitors that are way lower than what you've quoted. USA\*FLEX, Flexvision 14" SVGA for \$329. Samsung 14" SyncMaster 2 at .39mm for \$249. SyncMaster 3 at .28 mm for \$299. No name monitor from FCS, 14" SVGA \$285. Want more, I've got my Computer Shopper out. Don't compare cheapo monitors that comes standard with clone packages with your NEC dream monitor on the Falcon. If you want quailty, you'll pay for it, it doesn't matter which computer you buy. Ask that dealer of yours or call him up and ask him what kind of monitor you're getting and how much is it alone. You'll get the true price and quailty of the monitor you'll be getting if you just asked. Remember the Falcon has a standard S/VGA monitor port.

Let's talk about your 486 setup. Plan to run Windows? Cut that 105meg HD to 80 megs, you'll be throwing away 20 megs for DOS and Windows. When you buy a Falcon, I could see that MultiTOS will take a max of 5 megs, so you'll only have 20 megs advangate over a 4 meg Falcon setup. And over time you'll learn that ALL clone software will take up to double if not triple space compared to all similar Atari software. You'll really need a 200 meg drive to be taken sersiously if you're a PC owner.

Plan to have better than PC speaker sound? Add another \$59, and this is being generous, if you want ture compatibiliy you'll spend \$99 for an Ad Lid or if you want state of the art \$199 for a SB Pro.

Want a 19.6k modem? You'll spend \$400+ for one, while the DSP in the Falcon promise to do it via software. We all know software is cheaper than any hardware emulation. Just look at the Gemulator. Knowing the Atari shareware community, I don't see it as expensives at all. BTW, the DSP can go beyond 19.6K quite easily from what I've read.

Want Windows to run at a respectable speed? Better dump that standard cheapo S/VGA card for a \$149-\$249 S/VGA card.

Want to have more conventional memory, shell out another \$99 for a memory manager.

Trust me, I know a lot of people with PC that have 386/25/33 that are already thinking of expanding to a 486/50, because the power demands of PC software requires such. How long before a 486/50 looks slow? One, two years? This is of course totally depended on your needs.

Want a wordprocessor without pirating? Do I really have to tell you how much Words and WordPerfect for Windows really cost?

Want close to GEM like features? Put out another \$99-\$199 for a Program Manager replacement for Windows. I know Windows, I worked with Windows, I've seen Windows run. Windows is not GEM/TOS.

You've haven't really compared prices, I see you're really green to the PC world too, or you'll know all the hidden costs. Its unbelievable the hidden cost of a PC system that match some of the features of the Atari machines. Of course there are hidden costs in the Falcon system too. Like RAM costing more per meg than your regular standard SIMM. Limited to below 800x600 resolution out of the box. Additional resolution might be possible via third party, but that's additional expense. Close system. Possible mushy keyboard. Alot more I'm sure you could think up. Think about it and than make your choice.

Wen

Conf : STReport Online  
Msg# : 21937/21938 Lines: Extended Read: 1  
Sent : Sep 10, 1992 at 8:28 PM  
To : Gregory Fagan  
From : Len Waller at Fnet Node 18, ///Turbo Board Support BBS  
Subj : Atari

GF> If you think that when you purchase a 486 for \$200 more and skip out  
GF> from buying the falcon, you are getting a deal? Fine. Just remember  
GF> that the 486dx comes with the 486 chip, and the fast bus. As far as  
GF> I know, the Falcon has the same 32 bit bus??!!?? but also comes with  
GF> many of the things you will need to buy "cards" for to use. Like  
GF> midi, DSP, etc.  
GF> \*Origin: Fnet Node 637, Source Machine @Node 637 Mn.

Yes but the Atari hasn't learned their lesson yet, they're still useing proprietary methods when the 486Dx clone is open technology. I don't have to buy an IBM memory board before I can upgrade my memmory, I can buy what every is available and cheapest. The Falcon may use normal simms for memmory but you still have to buy the board from Atari. What about service, they have now all but shut down their service deptments. The price of compatable IBM features to exact Atari Falcon features would mean paying more for the IBM but going with the IBM I have serval advantages that you don't.

1> If a new midi board comes out, new standards or whatever I buy the low cost board and install it. You have to hardware hack or replace the machine.

2> If I want to upgrade to a 586 whnever they come out I buy the mother board and keep my exsisting cards, you again buy another whole machine.

3> Software IBM clones have been around for ages and software support is huge and wide spread in the stores and otherwise, Atari keeps changing it's operating system and therefor no backward compatablity maybue not so with the Falcon this time but every other time it was that way. I on the other hand with my software for my 286 can buy a 386-486 and 586 and still use that software.



Atari is a great system I'm just tired of paying to upgrade and not getting the same deal that the IBM users are. I love the Atari ST I have now, it's been a great machine but I won't be upgrading to the latest version of Atari product for the reasons stated. Everything is pretty well modular in the IBM and nothing is modular in the ATari, at least not in memory boards, nothing, you can't take your 250.00 memory upgrade from your 1040 that made it a 4 meg machine over to the Falcon, you can't trade it in like you can with IBM equipment. Other than cost where is the advantage?? I don't see it.

Now I didn't state all of this to start fights and arguments, if you can make your point as I'm sure you'll try... I'm interested in hearing your side of things.

--- Blue Wave/QWK v2.10

From GENie's ST RT

Category 18, Topic 20

Message 248 Sat Sep 05, 1992

S.WINICK at 07:10 EDT

John (TOWNS),

On the Jewish holiday of Passover, the youngest child in the family asks what is known as the "Four Questions" which serves as the foundation of retelling the story of the exodus from Egypt. The questions are all an expansion of the basic "Why is this night different from all other nights?"

Perhaps what your Atari owners are trying to ask is merely their version of that question, rephrased as "Why is this Atari different from all other Ataris?" Perhaps the 1992 version of "The Four Questions" in Atariland might go something like this:

Why is this Atari (Falcon) different from all other Ataris? On all other Ataris, the FCC wreaked havoc, but this Atari we're told will have no problem!

On all other Ataris, FCC rejections caused delays in approval and product supply to the United States market, but this Atari, we're told, will fly through with ease, despite the addition of so much extra electronics within the same case that has been so troublesome in the past. Has Atari devised a neat way that by adding a faster, more powerful processor, 10 extra megs of RAM, a hard drive, cooling fan motor and DSP circuitry, the RF will be reduced? Neat trick!

On all other 1040-style Ataris, copious amounts of metal shielding and what appears to be after the fact supplemental shielding along with a gaggle of screws and twist tabs had to be added in order to finally get an FCC Class B rating, but on this Atari the folks back in Sunnyvale tell us they're not at all concerned.

On all other 1040-style Ataris FCC approval dragged on for many months, but on this Atari there doesn't appear to be any sense of

urgency to start the approval process rolling by actually submitting the thing to the FCC. After all, it is only September and Sam didn't promise to have them start arriving until next month anyway.

Well.... there you have it. I hope those of us who are truly dedicated to the platform will enjoy this "religious experience" parody. The questions and concerns of your Atari owners are sincere, and this message is not intended as anything other than a lighthearted parody of their concerns. I hope it is taken in just that spirit. ;-]

Sheldon (Computer STudio - Asheville, NC)

-----

From GENie's ST RT

Category 18, Topic 20

Message 30 Sun Sep 06, 1992

B.CARRIER at 20:55 EDT

...been away for awhile. Went to the Ct. Atari show in Hartford, nice job

Brian Gockley), got interested in the "Falcon" computer.....

Is this a topic about the new computer or a forum for name-calling, punctuation lessons, responsible journalism, or plain old mud-slinging? I thought I was caught in the Bush/Clinton campaign rhetoric.

When I first bought my first Atari computer, (1983), and subsequently joined Genie, I used to think that Lloyd Pulley, and others, were real jerks to criticize Atari Corp.

I hated it, and him, when he kept reminding us that the Tramiels would never deliver on their promises to make the ST a viable computer on the home and business market in this country.(?)

Lloyd was 100% right then, and 100% right now. ANY way you spell it - Atari Corp. has pulled the rug, slowly, oh so slowly, out from under us....their best and most unheralded salesmen, for so long now.

Proof? The ST/TT line of computers has been at the top of the computer line since 1986, and STILL, no one outside of the Atari community has ever heard of them. Atari Corp. has advertised ONLY to their loyal users. People like Tom McComb, who like "another brick in the wall", keeps believing that despite failing specific magazines, almost zero stock prices, vaporware, 300 mile dealers, NO advertising, no support from computer mags, and etc., feel compelled to remind us that we don't spell very well, or most importantly, must not denigrate the company who has made such a fine computer, and let others try to make it successful.

The fact is, and even people "like him" must admit it, is that us Atari owners have always felt embarrassed to acknowledge that we actually own an Atari computer. "No it's not IBM compatible" - "No, it doesn't lust play Pac-Man" - "Yes, it can write a letter" !!!  
lust=just, yes, I'm tired too Tom. Forgive me.

As to Lloyd. True Atari afficiandos (how's that), should be thankful for people like him and ST Report for trying to present the real story. I

know John Jainschigg, and he tried to do the same, until Atari realized that John wanted to tell us what was really going on - and then pulled the mag "in-house"! Guess what that means.

The old saying, "the proof is in the pudding", applied to Atari Corp. under the Tramiels, takes on greater meaning. NO pudding. Great 3rd party software, and hardware, has kept this platform afloat for many years. ....and, of course, many, many, loyal rowers and bailers - or is it "bailors", Tom?

I love my Mega 2, even though I have to drive about 70 miles to get it fixed or see anyone who knows what I'm talking about. My user group, STARR, has shrunk to 6 people - and they all have IBM clones that they demonstrate at every meeting.

Lloyd, I think you write just fine. I thought you were way off base a few years ago, but boy has Atari proved me wrong. IF ANYONE HAS SWITCHED TO AN IBM, OR ANY OTHER COMPUTER PLATFORM, IT IS ONLY THE FAULT OF THE INEFFECTIVE, UNPROFESSIONAL, AND IRRESPONSIBLE POLICIES OF ATARI CORP., AND CERTAINLY NOT THE REPORTINGS OF THE ONLY JOURNAL BOLD ENOUGH TO INDEPENDENTLY REMIND ATARI USERS WHAT THEY ALREADY UNDERSTAND, AND HAVE COME TO EXPECT FROM THIS COMPANY.

Where is START, Byte (for just a mention), EA, Microprose, Analog, Electronic Boutique (in the East), Compute???

Sure, here comes the Falcon. Lets all get excited again. I think I'll wait, and like Mr. McComb, put down users who can't quite believe what's coming out of Atari mouths - whoever they may be this month.

By the time Atari delivers, (there's a word they don't understand), the, (or A), Falcon, the rest of the real computer establishment will have twenty-seven models just like it, and us loyal atarians will still be drooling over promises, specifications, and idiotic forums like this one.

I hope you all have a "Falcon" for Christmas. Anybody wanna (sic) bet?

Anybody wanna buy a bridge in Brookl.... no, make that 1000 shares of Atari Corp. stock?(!)

Hey, it's cheap. Less than \$2.00 a share.

Lloyd, and STReport, keep on keepin' em honest (double sic), and don't let idjits like McComb influence honest reporting. I was at the Ct. show, heard the same, can't prove it, don't need to, and support you. Keep up the good work and tell it like it is. You may be the only ones left doing it.

If Atari Corp. doesnt deliver the Falcon.....like everything else you have all waited patiently, and expensively, for.....then IGN PERM.

-----

Category 14, Topic 20

Message 56 Mon Aug 31, 1992

J.RICHTER [J.RICHTER] at 23:55 EDT

ATARI.. MR. TOWNS,

Forgive thirsty and parched patrons for our crankyness! We have been

dreaming of cooling waters with class "B" TT030's floating by our way in large ATARI shipping crates.. Our screens filled with scalable rotatable FSMGDOS fonts complete with jealous lears from PC owners peeking over our shoulders.. The shipping crates have all sunk, the FSMGDOS boxes never looked quite right to ATARI marketing.. they never got shipped! OH ATARI, fill our empty cups with the cool, cool waters of truth, give us all the strength to wait on your final promise.

May the FALCON be with you

\*\*\*\*\*

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... Ziggy "The Keyhole" Zircon

\*\*\*\*\*

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